

HOUSE BILL 13

Unofficial Copy
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2001 Regular Session
(11r1324)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Appropriations/Budget and Taxation and Finance --

Introduced by **Delegates Kopp, Taylor, Dewberry, Hurson, Arnick, Busch, Doory, Guns, Harrison, Hixson, Howard, Menes, Montague, Rawlings, Rosenberg, Vallario, and Wood Wood, W. Baker, Barkley, Bobo, Bronrott, Brown, Burns, Cane, Clagett, Cole, Conway, DeCarlo, Dembrow, Dypski, Finifter, Frush, Giannetti, Glassman, Goldwater, Grosfeld, Hammen, Hubers, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kirk, Love, Mandel, McIntosh, Moe, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Patterson, Pendergrass, Petzold, Pitkin, Riley, Rosso, Rudolph, Shriver, Swain, Turner, and Zirkin**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion
4 (STEP) Pilot Program; expressing the intent of the General Assembly regarding
5 the purpose of the STEP Program; requiring the Governor's Workforce
6 Investment Board, in consultation with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and
7 Regulation, to establish and administer the STEP Program; requiring the STEP
8 Program to provide certain grants on a competitive basis to a certain number of
9 local workforce investment boards; providing for the funding of the STEP
10 Program; specifying the STEP Program application process and application

1 contents; requiring the Board to evaluate certain applications, to consider
 2 factors, and to recommend to the Department the distribution of certain grants;
 3 requiring the Board to adopt certain performance evaluation standards;
 4 authorizing the Board to adopt certain regulations and guidelines; requiring a
 5 local workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant to
 6 develop certain processes and programs, provide for the creation of certain
 7 accounts, ensure that eligible individuals make certain applications prior to use
 8 of certain funds, coordinate with certain programs that provide wraparound
 9 services, assist eligible individuals in making certain applications prior to use of
 10 certain funds, collect and report certain data ~~by a certain date~~, and comply with
 11 certain performance evaluation requirements; requiring a local workforce
 12 investment board that receives a STEP Program grant to develop certain
 13 employer-based training programs that meet certain requirements; requiring
 14 the Department to distribute STEP Program grants consistent with certain
 15 recommendations, to establish certain financial and data collection procedures,
 16 and to provide certain technical assistance; requiring the Board to submit a
 17 certain annual report by a certain date; expressing the intent of the General
 18 Assembly if certain funds are used; expressing the intent of the General
 19 Assembly that certain funds be directed primarily to certain individuals;
 20 defining certain terms; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
 21 relating to the creation of the Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion
 22 (STEP) Program.

23 BY adding to

24 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
 25 Section 18-401 through 18-408, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle
 26 4. Skills-Based Training for Employment Promotion (STEP) Pilot
 27 Program"
 28 Annotated Code of Maryland
 29 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

30 Preamble

31 WHEREAS, Fifteen percent of Maryland's children live in poverty and even
 32 more live in near poverty; and

33 WHEREAS, Nationally almost two-thirds of children in poverty have working
 34 parents; and

35 WHEREAS, During the past 20 years, low-income families have seen an erosion
 36 in their standard of living, while at the same time the wealthiest families have
 37 experienced a dramatic increase in real income and wealth; and

38 WHEREAS, While welfare reform efforts have helped many former welfare
 39 recipients move into the labor force, many of these individuals have found work in
 40 entry-level jobs with low wages and without employer provided health care or other
 41 benefits; and

1 WHEREAS, The long-term success of welfare reform and workforce
2 development efforts depends on assisting low-income working parents sustain living
3 wage employment and access career ladders for employment promotion; and

4 WHEREAS, Helping low-income working parents access career ladders for
5 employment promotion to better jobs with higher wages and employer provided
6 benefits can result in long-term improvements in the economic well-being of
7 low-income families thereby reducing the likelihood of future public assistance needs;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The increased job related skills of parents can also serve to
10 encourage their children to perform better in school, thereby helping to break the
11 cycle of poverty; and

12 WHEREAS, Numerous employers in Maryland are currently suffering
13 shortages of skilled workers which inhibits the economic growth of the State and the
14 increased skills-based training of individuals will contribute to both the economic
15 development and prosperity in the State; now, therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

19 **SUBTITLE 4. SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION (STEP) PILOT**
20 **PROGRAM.**

21 18-401.

22 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE SKILLS-BASED
23 TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION (STEP) PILOT PROGRAM:

24 (1) ENABLE LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN
25 TO PURSUE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTED AT ATTAINMENT OF IDENTIFIED
26 SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS;

27 (2) ASSIST LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN
28 MOVING TOWARD LONG-TERM SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITH SKILLS-BASED TRAINING
29 THAT WILL:

30 (I) LEAD TO JOBS WITH FAMILY SUSTAINING WAGES INCLUDING
31 HEALTH CARE AND OTHER BENEFITS;

32 (II) PROVIDE ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL CAREER LADDERS FOR
33 CONTINUED JOB ADVANCEMENT; AND

34 (III) ELIMINATE FUTURE NEEDS FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;

35 (3) CREATE SKILLED EMPLOYEES THAT ARE QUALIFIED FOR
36 EMPLOYMENT IN AN AREA OF STATE OR LOCAL WORKFORCE SHORTAGE; AND

1 (4) COORDINATE WITH AND NOT DUPLICATE EXISTING STATE
2 PROGRAMS.

3 18-402.

4 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
5 INDICATED.

6 (B) "BOARD" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
7 ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND
8 EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

9 (C) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING, AND
10 REGULATION.

11 (D) "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO:

12 (1) IS THE CUSTODIAL PARENT, NONCUSTODIAL PARENT, OR LEGAL
13 GUARDIAN OF ONE OR MORE DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND IS RESPONSIBLE IN
14 WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE DEPENDENT CHILDREN;

15 (2) IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE;

16 (3) LIVES IN A HOUSEHOLD WITH AN INCOME THAT IS NOT MORE THAN
17 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; AND

18 (4) (I) 1. WORKS AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK IN:

19 ~~(A)~~ A. PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT;

20 ~~(B)~~ B. FAMILY INVESTMENT PROGRAM WORK ACTIVITY; OR

21 ~~(C)~~ C. STATE-SPONSORED OR RELATED WORK ACTIVITY; AND

22 ~~(5)~~ 2. HAS WORKED IN ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN ~~ITEM (4) OF~~
23 ~~THIS SUBSECTION~~ ITEM (I)1 OF THIS ITEM FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS; OR

24 (II) HAS WORKED AT LEAST 20 HOURS PER WEEK IN ONE OF THE
25 ACTIVITIES LISTED IN ITEM (I)1 OF THIS ITEM FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS IN THE
26 PRECEDING 12 MONTHS.

27 (E) (1) "EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING" MEANS SKILLS-BASED TRAINING
28 THAT:

29 (I) IS APPROVED BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD;

30 (II) IS PROVIDED TO AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL IN COORDINATION
31 WITH THE INDIVIDUAL'S EMPLOYER; AND

32 (III) MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 18-406 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

1 (2) "EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING" MAY INCLUDE APPROVED IN-HOUSE
2 EMPLOYER TRAINING AND EMPLOYER TRAINING PROGRAMS DEVELOPED IN
3 COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION OR OTHER
4 TRAINING PROVIDERS.

5 (F) "INDIVIDUAL STEP ~~TRAINING~~ ACCOUNT" MEANS AN ACCOUNT HELD ON
6 BEHALF OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
7 THAT MAY BE USED TO PAY FOR SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND
8 SERVICES AND ~~CONSISTS OF MONEYS CONTRIBUTED BY AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL~~
9 ~~OR EMPLOYER AND MATCHED WITH FUNDS FROM THE STEP PROGRAM THAT:~~

10 (1) MAY CONSIST OF MONEYS CONTRIBUTED BY AN ELIGIBLE
11 INDIVIDUAL OR EMPLOYER; AND

12 (2) SHALL CONSIST OF MONEYS FROM THE STEP PROGRAM.

13 (G) "LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD" MEANS A BOARD
14 ESTABLISHED TO ADMINISTER SERVICES IN A WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA
15 ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
16 ARTICLE.

17 (H) "SKILLS-BASED TRAINING" MEANS TRAINING APPROVED BY A LOCAL
18 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RESULTS IN THE ISSUANCE OF A
19 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL DEGREE, THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF
20 PROFICIENCY IN A SPECIFIC WORK-RELATED SKILL, OR THE ATTAINMENT OF AN
21 IDENTIFIABLE SKILL THAT IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO FUTURE JOB ADVANCEMENT AND
22 IMPROVEMENT IN AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL'S EARNING POTENTIAL.

23 (I) "SPATIAL MISMATCH" MEANS A PATTERN IN WHICH EMPLOYERS IN NEED
24 OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES SEEKING JOBS ARE IN DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS
25 WITHIN THE SAME JOB MARKET, CREATING A WORKER SHORTAGE IN ONE
26 JURISDICTION AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION.

27 ~~(H)~~ (J) "STEP PROGRAM" MEANS THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING FOR
28 EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION PILOT PROGRAM CREATED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

29 ~~(H)~~ (K) "WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA
30 DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNOR AS A SERVICE DELIVERY AREA UNDER TITLE 11,
31 SUBTITLE 5 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE.

32 ~~(K)~~ (L) (1) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" MEANS SERVICES THAT ARE
33 NECESSARY TO ENABLE AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN AN APPROVED
34 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM.

35 (2) "WRAPAROUND SERVICES" ~~INCLUDE~~ INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION,
36 HEALTH CARE, CHILD CARE, MEALS, TEMPORARY HOUSING, AND OTHER
37 REASONABLE EXPENSES REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE APPROVED
38 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM.

1 18-403.

2 (A) THERE IS A STEP PROGRAM TO PROVIDE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND
 3 WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPENDENT
 4 CHILDREN AND PROVEN WORK HISTORIES.

5 ~~(A)~~ (B) THE BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL
 6 ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER THE STEP PROGRAM.

7 ~~(B)~~ (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE STEP PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO
 8 LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS TO FUND SKILLS-BASED TRAINING,
 9 EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING, AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE
 10 INDIVIDUALS.

11 ~~(C)~~ (D) THE STEP PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE GRANTS ~~EACH YEAR~~ ON A
 12 COMPETITIVE BASIS TO AT LEAST THREE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
 13 CONSISTENT WITH ~~§ 11-704~~ § 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

14 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE STEP PROGRAM SHALL BE FUNDED AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE
 15 BUDGET WITH:

16 (1) MONEY INCLUDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE BUDGET OF THE
 17 DEPARTMENT;

18 (2) MONEY FROM ANY PRIVATE SOURCE; AND

19 (3) ANY AVAILABLE MONEY FROM A FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL
 20 PROGRAM, INCLUDING MONEY RECEIVED BY THE STATE FROM THE FEDERAL
 21 TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) BLOCK GRANT AND THE
 22 FEDERAL JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT.

23 18-404.

24 (A) TO APPLY FOR A GRANT UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM, A LOCAL
 25 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OR A GROUP OF TWO OR MORE LOCAL
 26 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS SHALL SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE BOARD.

27 (B) THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
 28 BOARD OR A GROUP OF TWO OR MORE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
 29 SHALL:

30 (1) IDENTIFY:

31 (I) THE WORK-RELATED SKILLS AND OCCUPATIONS THAT ARE IN
 32 SHORT SUPPLY IN THE GEOGRAPHIC REGION SERVED BY THE LOCAL WORKFORCE
 33 INVESTMENT BOARD; AND

34 (II) THE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES
 35 THAT THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD INTENDS TO FUND THROUGH
 36 THE STEP PROGRAM; AND

1 (2) PROVIDE OTHER INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE BOARD.

2 (C) THE BOARD SHALL:

3 (1) EVALUATE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY LOCAL WORKFORCE
4 INVESTMENT BOARDS AND RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT THE DISTRIBUTION
5 OF GRANTS TO LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS UNDER THE STEP
6 PROGRAM;

7 (2) INCLUDE IN THE EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATIONS,
8 CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

9 (I) THE EXISTENCE OF A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS IN
10 THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT ARE
11 RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OR RECEIVED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE
12 PRIOR 12 MONTHS;

13 (II) THE LEVEL OF EXISTING LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
14 BOARD TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS WITH EMPLOYERS; ~~AND~~

15 (III) THE ABILITY OF THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
16 TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 18-405 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

17 (IV) WHERE APPLICABLE, THE EXTENT TO WHICH TWO OR MORE
18 LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME ANY
19 SPATIAL MISMATCH OR OTHER SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS THAT MAY EXIST BETWEEN
20 EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES WITHIN A LOCAL OR REGIONAL JOB MARKET; AND

21 (3) ADOPT OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION STANDARDS THAT
22 MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STEP PROGRAM AND INCLUDE:

23 (I) AN EVALUATION OF THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TYPE OF JOB AND
24 INCREASES IN WAGES AND BENEFITS OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF
25 COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING; AND

26 (II) THE MONITORING OF THE JOB ADVANCEMENT, WAGES, AND
27 BENEFIT LEVELS OF AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS COMPLETED SKILLS-BASED
28 TRAINING FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS AFTER THE TRAINING IS COMPLETED.

29 (D) THE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT
30 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 18-405.

32 (A) AFTER RECEIVING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD,
33 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE AND ADMINISTER THE STEP PROGRAM GRANT
34 FUNDS TO THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS IN A MANNER
35 CONSISTENT WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

36 (B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

1 (1) ESTABLISH FINANCIAL PROCEDURES AND REPORTING MECHANISMS
2 TO ENSURE THAT STEP PROGRAM FUNDS ARE BEING APPROPRIATELY USED FOR THE
3 PURPOSES OF THE STEP PROGRAM;

4 (2) ESTABLISH DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES THAT PROVIDE FOR
5 THE COLLECTION, TRACKING, AND REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF STEP PROGRAM
6 DATA NEEDED BY THE BOARD TO COMPLETE THE REPORTING AND EVALUATION
7 REQUIREMENTS OF THE STEP PROGRAM; AND

8 (3) ASSIST IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL
9 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS.

10 18-406.

11 (A) A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RECEIVES A GRANT
12 UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM SHALL:

13 (1) DEVELOP AN ASSESSMENT PROCESS TO IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE
14 INDIVIDUALS WITH EXISTING JOB SKILLS AT A LEVEL SUFFICIENT TO BENEFIT
15 FROM SKILLS-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS;

16 (2) ENSURE THAT AN ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL APPLIES FOR ALL
17 AVAILABLE EDUCATION AND TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR PROGRAMS
18 PRIOR TO USE OF STEP PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES;

19 (3) COORDINATE WITH ALL APPLICABLE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
20 PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND
21 ASSIST ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN APPLYING FOR THESE PROGRAMS PRIOR TO USE
22 OF FUNDS FROM THE STEP PROGRAM FOR THESE PURPOSES;

23 (4) PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF INDIVIDUAL STEP ACCOUNTS HELD
24 BY THE LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF AN ELIGIBLE
25 INDIVIDUAL THAT MAY BE USED BY ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS TO PAY FOR
26 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES;

27 (5) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN OUTREACH PROGRAM TO ENSURE
28 THAT ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND EMPLOYERS OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS ARE
29 AWARE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED UNDER THE STEP PROGRAM THAT MAY
30 INCLUDE:

31 (I) A TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE HOTLINE;

32 (II) DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS;

33 (III) MAILINGS AND TELEPHONE CALLS TO FOOD STAMP
34 RECIPIENTS, PARENTS OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
35 PROGRAM, INDIVIDUALS THAT RECEIVE FEDERAL AND STATE EARNED INCOME TAX
36 CREDITS, AND FORMER RECIPIENTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE; ~~AND~~

1 (IV) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION OF PUBLIC ENTITIES AND
2 COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS;

3 (V) COORDINATION OF OUTREACH AND MARKETING EFFORTS
4 AMONG LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS THAT RECEIVE STEP PROGRAM
5 GRANTS; AND

6 (VI) AN INTERNET WEBSITE WITH INTERNET LINKS BETWEEN THE
7 WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT, THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
8 RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE
9 MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
10 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS;

11 (6) ASSIST ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COMPLETED
12 SKILLS-BASED TRAINING IN OBTAINING EMPLOYMENT WITH INCREASED WAGES
13 AND BENEFITS;

14 ~~(7) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS~~
15 ~~CONSISTENT WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION;~~

16 ~~(8)~~ (7) COLLECT DATA AND REPORT TO THE BOARD BY OCTOBER 31 OF
17 DEPARTMENT EACH YEAR ON:

18 (I) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO SUCCESSFULLY
19 COMPLETE SKILLS-BASED TRAINING;

20 (II) THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO OBTAIN
21 ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY
22 CHANGE IN WAGES AND BENEFITS RECEIVED; ~~AND~~

23 (III) THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS
24 PARTICIPATING IN EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS; AND

25 (IV) THE NUMBER OF LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARDS
26 WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS SPATIAL MISMATCH AND THE NUMBER OF
27 EMPLOYERS AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED; AND

28 ~~(9)~~ (8) COMPLY WITH THE STEP PROGRAM PERFORMANCE
29 EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD UNDER § 18-404 OF THIS
30 SUBTITLE.

31 (B) (1) IN ADDITION TO SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND WRAPAROUND
32 SERVICES PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
33 OF THIS SECTION, A LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD THAT RECEIVES A
34 STEP PROGRAM GRANT SHALL WORK IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS TO
35 IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS
36 CONSISTENT WITH PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.

37 (2) APPROVED EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING PROGRAMS:

1 (I) SHALL BE FUNDED WITH A MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION BY THE
2 EMPLOYER OF AT LEAST 50% IN MATCHING FUNDS;

3 (II) MAY BE PERMITTED TO RANGE FROM SHORT-TERM TRAINING
4 IN SPECIFIC SKILLS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION CLASSES OVER A LONGER
5 PERIOD OF TIME;

6 (III) MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO TRAINING THAT WILL RESULT IN THE
7 ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL REMAINING IN OR MOVING TO A JOB WITH AN EMPLOYER
8 THAT IS AT A MINIMUM WAGE SALARY LEVEL ~~OR~~ AND THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE
9 HEALTH CARE OR OTHER BENEFITS;

10 (IV) MAY BE PROVIDED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER EMPLOYERS
11 TO ADDRESS COMMON WORKFORCE NEEDS; AND

12 (V) SHALL INCLUDE AGREED UPON PROCESSES TO FOLLOW UP
13 WITH EMPLOYERS AND EVALUATE THE SUCCESS OF THE TRAINING AND WHETHER
14 IT MEETS THE GOALS OF THE STEP PROGRAM.

15 18-407.

16 (A) ~~BY JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, 2003 AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,~~ THE
17 BOARD SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
18 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE
19 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUBTITLE.

20 (B) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER INFORMATION DETERMINED BY THE BOARD,
21 USING THE DATA COLLECTED AND PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE REPORT
22 SHALL:

23 (1) SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS THAT:

24 (I) HAVE APPLIED FOR TRAINING AND SERVICES TO BE FUNDED
25 BY THE STEP PROGRAM IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR;

26 (II) ARE PURSUING SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND THE EXTENT TO
27 WHICH THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE SUCCEEDING IN THE TRAINING;

28 (III) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SKILLS-BASED TRAINING;

29 (IV) ARE RECEIVING WRAPAROUND SERVICES FUNDED BY THE
30 STEP PROGRAM AND THE TYPE OF SERVICES FUNDED;

31 (V) HAVE OBTAINED ADVANCED EMPLOYMENT ON COMPLETION
32 OF SKILLS-BASED TRAINING AND ANY CHANGE IN WAGES OR BENEFITS RECEIVED;
33 AND

34 (VI) ARE PARTICIPATING IN EMPLOYER-BASED TRAINING
35 PROGRAMS AND THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF EMPLOYERS PARTICIPATING IN THESE
36 PROGRAMS; AND

1 (2) PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE
2 STEP PROGRAM BASED ON THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD UNDER §
3 18-404 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

4 18-408.

5 THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE "STEP PROGRAM".

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
7 General Assembly that if a portion of the STEP Program is funded with moneys from
8 the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant, a local
9 workforce investment board that receives a STEP Program grant shall make best
10 efforts to direct a proportionate amount of STEP Program funds to services for
11 individuals who are current or recent recipients of TANF Program or Family
12 Investment Program services.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
14 General Assembly that a local workforce investment board that receives a STEP
15 Program grant shall make best efforts to ensure that STEP Program funds are
16 directed primarily toward services for low-income working parents.

17 ~~SECTION 4.~~ SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
18 effect July 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of
19 June 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
20 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.